



**Certification and Higher Education Committee**  
Maine State Board of Education  
Minutes of the August 30, 2012 Meeting

The Certification and Higher Education Committee held a meeting on Thursday, August 30 2012, at the Department of Education in Augusta. The following were present: Chair Nancy Perkins; Jana Lapoint; and Heidi Sampson (Board Members); Mark Cyr and Harry Osgood (DOE Staff)

Nancy Perkins called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

- Public Law Chapter 635: LD 1858: "An Act to Ensure Effective Teaching and School Leadership".

The focus of the meeting was to address the charge in PL 635 to the State Board concerning the addition of language for K-8 teacher certification. The exact wording of PL 635:

Sec. B-5.Certification rules. The State Board of Education shall amend its rules relating to certification of educators under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 13012 to require that any person seeking an endorsement to teach kindergarten to grade 8 students must demonstrate proficiency in math and reading instruction, including evidence-based reading instruction. For the purposes of this section, "evidence-based reading instruction" means instructional practices that have been proven by systematic, objective, valid and peer-reviewed research to lead to predictable gains in reading achievement. The requirement must apply to all teachers and educational specialists, including teachers in special education and teachers of English language learners.

After much discussion, the Committee decided that ETS would be contacted about the applicability of the current Praxis II tests that are required in Chapter 115 to the intent of PL 635. Once we receive this report, we would proceed for this report and other data from teacher preparation programs in the state would determine what next steps would be. A detailed report was received from ETS showing alignment. Harry Osgood is preparing a document that should be ready for the next Board meeting.

The next Certification Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 24, 2012 at 9:00 AM. The meeting will be held in room 541 of the Cross State Office Building.

Adjournment

The Certification Committee meeting adjourned at 11:45 AM.